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CHINA IN TRANSFORMATION. By ARCHIBALD R. COLQUHOUN. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1912.

The present volume is an enlarged and revised edition of the publication of 1898, and deals with the transformation of China from its political aspect and its relation to foreign powers. Mr. Colquhoun gives as the distinguishing characteristics of the Chinaman, his passion for labor, his docility, and temperance.

The author disagrees entirely with Mr. Ross, of *The Changing Chinese*, as to the fighting ability of the people. Mr. Ross says the fighting spirit of the Chinese is dead, and that even the little boys in the street content themselves with a brandishing of fists and abusive language; whereas Mr. Colquhoun upholds the Abbé Huc in his statement that it may be possible to organize in China the most formidable army in the world. Also Mr. Colquhoun is much less satisfied than Mr. Ross with the work of the missionaries in China. This may, of course, be due to the fact that this part of the book was written fourteen years ago, and perhaps not revised by more recent inspection. At any rate, Mr. Colquhoun feels that the missionaries frequently give grave offense to Chinese theories of propriety by the carelessness with which the sexes meet, by the attempts of the missionaries to remove their native converts from local jurisdiction, by neglect of etiquette in intercourse with officials, by requiring vengeance on anti-Christian rioters, etc. He also feels that we offer China a system of ethics in many respects inferior to their own. It can only be said that in this estimate of the value of the services of the missionaries Mr. Colquhoun is in a very small minority. There is hardly a voice raised against the missionary work now done in foreign lands. We are sending out a very different class of men from those who went two decades ago, and a much more able, tolerant, well-informed, well-prepared class of men. Their work is appreciated even by those least convinced of their doctrines. The medical missionaries have done untold good to China.

The chapters on "The New Learning" and "Foreign Relations" are full of interest for American and English readers. The caliber of this people may be estimated by the numerous testimonials of all the travelers and observers of the last twenty years. China possesses nearly one-fourth the population of the world. To awaken this sleeping giant and to give it part in the commerce and the counsels of the world must profoundly modify the commercial policy of both Great Britain and America. Our greatest hope must lie in the conviction, attested by the majority of observers, that the Chinese are a people of sterling and virile quality, and that after the initial disorders they will achieve a stable and respectable government.

THE CHANGING CHINESE. By EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS. New York: The Century Company, 1912.

With the awakening of China and the introduction of Western culture into the Middle Kingdom, books are pouring from the press to explain to the world at large what manner of man is taking in hand the weapons of progress and enlightenment. Dr. Ross, the author of this extremely interesting book on China, makes no pretense of having made an exhaustive study of the subject. His book is the result of six months of diligent

travel and inquiry. He admits that no traveler who consults the old treaty-port residents will ever have courage to write his impressions. They all report that the longer one lives in China the less can one fathom the depths of the wily alien. To Mr. Ross China is the Middle Ages suddenly made visible. The narrow, crooked, poorly paved streets, where traffic filters painfully through the six-foot passage; the one-storied buildings, the lack of water-supply and public lighting, the absence of chimneys and window-glass, the low standard of cleanliness, all turn one back to the fourteenth century in Europe.

The toughness of the race fiber of the Chinese Mr. Ross attributes to the reckless manner in which the inhabitants are weeded out in infancy. Those infants that have not vitality to withstand the unhealthy conditions and neglect that surround them die out. Out of ten children born with us, about three die, says Mr. Ross. Out of every ten in China, eight die, but the two survivors hand down an inheritance of great vitality. The recklessness with which the race is increased, quite regardless of all ability to provide for it, seems to the author the crying evil of the nation. Nowhere else is human life held so cheap. The concubine has a legal status and her offspring are considered legitimate. Not one woman in a thousand in China remains a spinster. The race is blindly multiplied, when there is no longer room to raise more food for them.

In a census paragraph cited by the author there is a return of 14,000 souls for a country district of eleven square miles, nearly 1,200 to the square mile. Shantung reports 700 to the square mile.

One of the most interesting chapters in the book is that on the unbinding, body and mind, of the women. The missionary schools meet the current need of the women better than the government schools. With the unaccustomed liberty so suddenly granted, the restraints of a Christian education are almost a necessity. Indeed, it is encouraging to hear from this unprejudiced outside observer, and professor of sociology, of the good work done by the missionaries in China. Of the fourteen hundred Roman Catholics and the four thousand Protestant missionaries now working in China, Mr. Ross reports only good. The English missionaries, he says, concentrate chiefly upon evangelizing and translating, while the Americans work hardest in medical and educational fields. The British are more interested in the eternal welfare of the souls of the Chinese, while the Americans, with their democratic zeal for man, aspire to help them upward in the present.

This volume is popular and interesting, and will give a vivid impression to one who has not seen the country.

MARTIN LUTHER: The Man and His Work. By ARTHUR CUSHMAN MCGIFFERT. New York: The Century Company, 1912.

All thinking people like to reconstruct for their own benefit certain historic figures, and every age recreates, in a way, the world's great men; so that history is being continually rewritten. These forceful personalities represent so much, stand for ideas and ideals so vital, that their influence is still active and formative. But the orientation of the human mind to truth and to truths differs from age to age, and the readjustment of historic views is itself a study. Within four hundred pages Dr. Mc-